

Torrance Herald

Three
Sections
16 Pages
This Issue

Consolidated
Edition
Torrance Herald
and Lomita News

FIFTEENTH YEAR—No. 10

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1932

SECTION A

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CITY DEMANDS LOWER WATER RATES

SICH BROS. AWARDED BIG ROAD JOB

Construction of 19 Miles of State Highway Falls to Local Concern

Basch Bros. Construction Company, whose offices and main headquarters are located on South Normandie east of the United Concrete Pipe Company plant, has just been awarded a contract for construction work on a state highway aggregating half a million dollars and over. The contract was awarded March 7.

The job, which will require 400 working days to complete, consists of the grading and surfacing of a section of the state highway now being built between Blythe and Blythe. The section for which the contract was awarded to Basch Bros. covers 1 1/4 miles, with a width of 38 feet, between Blythe's Summit on the crest of the lower San Bernardino range to Desert Center, a little sunbaked spot on the Colorado desert. Basch Bros. bid for the job was in round numbers, \$528,000. About 300 men will be employed in the construction.

The firm of Basch Bros. has been in existence for about 15 years and has established itself as one of the largest and most important construction companies in the field. It has been at the Torrance location about two years, contracts aggregating more than a million dollars have passed through their hands during the past year, the latest job completed amounting to \$450,000. Their bids are principally placed on state highway work, with occasionally a bid for county jobs, where those are carried out on a large scale. The Normandie avenue job was one of the county propositions on which they were engaged.

New Manager In Charge Of Lomita Theatre

Los Angeles Man Takes Over Local Picture House This Week

After a long period of idleness, the Lomita theater will re-open March 24.

Ernest Reed of Los Angeles, who has taken a five-year lease on the property, was busy this week looking over the theater and planning the improvements which will be made. New sound equipment will be installed, the interior of the theater will be remodeled, and as Mr. Reed stated, everything will be new. "New pictures, new prices, new equipment," said Mr. Reed, "I propose to give to the residents of Lomita an up-to-date entertainment in attractive surroundings."

The work of remodeling will be pushed as rapidly as possible in order to have all ready by the opening date, Friday, March 24.

City Officials to Attend Grand Ball

Mayor and Mrs. John Dennis, City Councilman and Mrs. Carlton B. Bell, City Clerk and Mrs. A. H. Bartlett and former Councilman and Mrs. E. C. Nelson have accepted invitations to attend the grand civic ball which will feature the formal dedication of the new municipal auditorium at Long Beach tonight. Governor James D. Rolph is expected to lead the grand march. Many other civic officials will be present.

Other Torrance officials invited, who were unable to attend, were Councilmen R. R. Smith, G. A. R. Steiner, DeKalb Spurlin, president and Carl L. Hyde, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

CAR BURNED
A car belonging to Mrs. Edward Robinson, 1313 Beech street, caught fire Monday afternoon and was partially destroyed. The Torrance fire department responded to the alarm.

Leaders In Parley Over Unemployment

Industry Heads See No Hope For Immediate Increase In Personnel

Representatives of seven major industries met with Legionnaires and local business men at the Chamber of Commerce rooms on Thursday afternoon, March 3, at the call of the Legion. The meeting was held in the interest of the Legion's drive against unemployment. Considerable discussion of the problem resulted but no definite action was taken, as the industrialists expressed themselves to the effect that an increase in personnel could not be effected now without seriously affecting those already employed by further cuts of their hour schedule.

Those in attendance at the meeting were F. E. Guyball of the Pacific Electric Railway, Mr. Abbott of the Southern California Gas Company, W. E. Shawger of the Rubbercraft Corporation, Floyd Haskill, Standard Oil; Sherwood McIntyre, C. C. M. O.; John Salm, Salm's Manufacturing Company; Frank Buffington, of the J. C. Penney Company; Charles Schultz of Schultz & Peckham, Mr. Hill of the Union Oil Company, and Earl Conner, member of the Legion committee. Carl Hyde, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, presided over the meeting, with L. J. Gilmeister acting as secretary.

SMITH CALLS MEETING HERE ON MARCH 24

Taxpayers and Voters League in Mass Meeting at Torrance High School

Taxpayers and voters of Torrance and Lomita are summoned to a mass meeting to be held at the Torrance high school auditorium, Thursday evening, March 24, 8 o'clock. The meeting, called by Beverly B. Smith, president of the recently organized Taxpayers and Voters League of Torrance and Lomita, will offer a discussion of the problems confronting the citizen today.

Several speakers who are thoroughly posted on taxation affairs and civic conditions have been invited to be present. At recent meetings of the League organized in other cities of the harbor district, strong resolutions protesting against the further increase of tax burden through the levying of improvement assessments and bond issues, have been adopted. There is a probability that similar action will be taken at the Torrance meeting.

The Taxpayers League has grown rapidly since its inception several weeks ago, until it now numbers several thousand adherents. All are deeply interested and highly enthusiastic over the prospects for action in the matter of bringing about a reduction in the tax burden. A slash of at least 30 per cent is the objective.

Torrance Couple First to Wed In New Court Room

Joseph G. Prince, age 25, 1031 Cravens avenue, and Miss Florence Rose Smith, age 19, 930 Arlington avenue, were the first couple to be married in Judge Dennis' new courtroom. Their wedding was solemnized on Friday, March 4, in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Kent as witnesses. Mr. Prince is an employee of the U. S. Steel corporation.

Judge Dennis' comment that it was a happy circumstance that made a Torrance couple the first to be united in the new court room with the jesting response from the groom that he believed in patronizing home industries.

COLORS USED TO IDENTIFY PROPOSITIONS

Possibility of Error in Voter's Choice Minimized by Tinted Paper Device

Propositions relating to the repeal of the ten-cent promotion fund tax and the reduction of the tax to five cents, which will be voted on at the coming election on April 11, will be distinguished by being printed on paper of different colors, so that the voter may be sure of casting his ballot for the one he prefers.

Each slip will have the voting "No" and the words "Yes" and "No" and the proposition receiving the greatest number of votes in his favor will be deemed to have carried although each may have a majority of votes cast.

Proposition No. 2 repeals Ordinance No. 139 creating the ten-cent tax and leaves the promotion fund handled by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce without support. Proposition No. 3 repeals Ordinance No. 139 and substitutes a measure providing a five-cent tax for this fund, on which basis the Chamber of Commerce is now voluntarily operating.

Proposition No. 1 relates to the adoption or rejection of the proposed city charter. Judges and clerks constituting the election boards for the 12 precincts have been selected. In naming the boards, only one member of a family has been appointed. No person who owns a building within which the precinct voting is carried on has been placed on the board.

This has been done, said City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, in order to spread the remuneration for the work around among as many families as possible. The rate of pay remains the same as formerly, \$10 per day for judges and clerks and the same amount per day for the use of the building.

Registration figures as officially announced for each precinct are as follows: Precinct No. 1—134; No. 2—323; No. 3—300; No. 4—254; No. 5—273; No. 6—318; No. 7—276; No. 8—270; No. 9—295; No. 10—239; No. 11—250; No. 12—292. Total—3275.

The city's registration at the 1930 municipal election was 2189.

Legionnaires Install New Post Monday

Big Delegation Goes to Belmont Shore to Initiate Members

Led by Commander L. H. Dehlinger and staff, a large group of Legionnaires from Bert S. Crossland Post met over the Belmont shore clubhouse Monday evening, March 7, and proceeded to consolidate the postion by installing a new Post of 53 members there under the name of Alamitos Bay Post No. 445.

Installation and initiation was done by the Torrance Post, with Commander Ray Hoskins of the 19th district acting as installing officer. L. H. Dehlinger as commander, Clinton Thaxter, first vice president; James H. Scott, second vice president; Earl C. Conner, past commander; J. H. Burchett, adjutant; R. J. Dehlinger, finance officer; J. R. Wilks, chaplain; N. F. Jamieson, sergeant-at-arms, exemplified the work.

The Legion Auxiliary drill team, composed of Captain Pearl McVickers, Sergeant-at-Arms Veloura Murphy, Mary Harder, Dorothy Harder, Alma Smith, Monty Mann, Myrtle Schumacher, Lucile Cheadle, Helen Leslie, Jean Patterson, Genevieve Thaxter, Myrtle Givens, Ruby Backstrom and Virginia Scott assisted. Their floor work, full of military precision and snap, added a lot to the success of the proceedings and was roundly applauded. Maxine Smith accompanied the drill team and Alex McPhail, bugler, blew the calls which opened the program for the evening.

Dr. Lancaster Gives His Frank Opinion of Charter Opponents

In his characteristic frank and straight forward manner, Dr. J. S. Lancaster states his reasons for favoring the new charter. Dr. Lancaster was one of the fifteen freeholders elected to draft the charter and consequently he is thoroughly familiar with its provisions. His letter printed below warrants the careful consideration of Torrance citizens:

"Grover C. Whyte, Editor, 'Torrance Herald,'—

"March 6, 1932.

"It seems to me Torrance should have its own charter if any city should. Our large area and large assessed valuation with the potentialities for great and rapid growth make it peculiarly fitting that we be entirely self governed and Torrance certainly is not self governed as far as the large outlay of tax money is concerned; namely, the schools. The old battle-cry of the American Revolution, 'Taxation without representation,' could well be a slogan of this municipal campaign of ours. England had the best government of that day and she thought the Colonies should be content with things as they were, but our forefathers thought differently. The Los Angeles school system is a fine educational machine but that does not mean that Torrance can not supply a better one for our needs with less money outlay.

"Our voters should study this charter proposal most carefully for it is tremendously important, and they should take into consideration the motives of those who are actively opposing the charter. My limited observation leads me to believe that with some the motives are purely personal and selfish and are not inspired by desires for the good of all.

"The individual features of the charter are being explained each week and to me it is a wonderful insight of municipal government. Now is our opportunity to adopt our 'Constitution' and our 'Declaration of Independence' as well.

"J. S. LANCASTER."

WATER COMPANY OFFERS FREE SERVICE FOR LOCAL GARDENS

Plan to Aid Unemployed by Permitting Them to Raise Vegetables On Vacant Lots

The following self-explanatory letter from the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company offers an opportunity to unemployed heads of families to provide a certain amount of provisions for their dependents this spring. As the letter suggests, there are a number of lots which can be utilized for this purpose.

Torrance, California.
March 9, 1932.

Editor Torrance Herald,
Torrance, California.
Dear Sir:

It occurs to this Company that a number of vacant lots within the City limits of Torrance could be profitably utilized for the growing of potatoes, corn and other garden vegetables suitable for table use for the average family.

In order to assist the unemployed to grow garden vegetables for his own use, we will welcome the opportunity to furnish water, free of charge, to such projects that in our opinion are worthy, provided, that the City of Torrance will plow such lot and will connect to our nearest fire hydrant and supervise the irrigation during the growing season of such garden, all to be done by the City without cost to the applicant or to us.

It will be necessary to have such irrigation take place between the hours of 5:30 P. M. and 7:00 A. M. in order to not conflict with our peak service load.

The intent of this offer is for immediate relief only, and not for the purpose of carrying through any perpetual or continuing series of garden crops; ample time will be allotted for carrying out the purpose for which this offer is made, after which we will not bind ourselves, and the discontinuance of this free offer will at all times be under our sole control.

Inasmuch as this applies to vacant lots only, no hydrant service will be given to lots that now are serviced by meter. It would also be understood that reason and good judgment be used as to distance from nearest hydrant, which matter would be discretionary with the City of Torrance.

Yours very truly,
TORRANCE WATER, LIGHT & POWER CO.
By E. C. NELSON, President.

Mediumologist Will Entertain Kiwanis

Dr. Joseph Jasin, mediumologist, will be the speaker at the next meeting of the Kiwanis club held at Earl's Cafe Monday evening, March 14. The current issue of the Kiwanian says of him that "as an educator or an entertainer he has few living equals. As a combination of both he stands absolutely alone." Due to the high character of the program the Kiwanis club is expecting over one hundred guests to participate in the entertainment.

NINE TO RUN FOR COUNCIL IN TORRANCE

Dennis, Smith, Bell and Three New Candidates Enter Race

Voters will have plenty of choice in the selection of members for the next city council, as already nine Torrance citizens have indicated that they may enter the race. Mayor John Dennis and Councilmen R. R. Smith and Carleton B. Bell, the incumbents whose terms expire, will run for re-election, the Herald learned from sources believed to be reliable this week. However, none of them have as yet secured nominating blanks from City Clerk Bartlett. Former Councilman Earl Conner will also enter the race, according to latest reports.

Petitions are now being circulated by friends of V. T. Klusman, J. M. Wright, M. F. Cameron, Scott Ludlow and R. V. Roelofs.

J. M. Wright, 1024 Arlington avenue, was the originator and circulator of the ordinance to repeal the ten-cent promotion tax.

Richard V. Roelofs, 1328 Amalapa avenue, is an employee of the Tolson Transportation System.

Rev. Matthew F. Cameron, 1606 Post avenue, has a practice of Christian healing and is a personal friend of Governor Rolph.

Scott Ludlow, 1329 Engraham avenue, has been employed in the office of the Union Tool Company for many years.

Four vacancies are to be filled on the council at the April election, two being for the four-year term and one for the regular two-year term. The remaining vacancy was caused by the resignation last week of E. C. Nelson. A successor term will be elected to hold office for two years. Nomination petitions must be filed not later than noon on March 22.

Wilson Page Is Badly Hurt In Coasting Mishap

Scout Troop's Trip to Mountain Resort Marred by Unfortunate Accident

Wilson Page, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Rufus Page, 1728 Arlington avenue, was severely injured Saturday afternoon in a coasting accident at Jackson's Lake near Big Pine. Wilson had gone with a troop of Boy Scouts to the resort and was taking part in the winter sports soon after the arrival of the troop.

As he was coming down the coasting slide, the sled ahead of him turned over and Wilson struck the steel runner which tore a long gash in the right side of his chest. He was taken to the emergency hospital at the camp where six stitches were taken in the wound. No ribs were broken but Wilson was badly bruised and shaken up.

Scoutmaster Robert L. Wellen, who was in charge of the troop, notified Mr. Page who came immediately and took his son home. About 21 boys made the trip to the resort, an annual outing for Troop 3. Schultz & Peckham furnished a truck for their transportation.

The boys enjoyed the snow sports and also had the opportunity to watch the competition in Big Pine first annual ski tournament. Aside from the unfortunate accident to Wilson Page, which occurred shortly after their arrival, no other mishap was experienced.

DAUGHTER IS BORN

Charles J. Colden, former member of the Los Angeles city council, and former harbor commissioner, will be the speaker at the dinner meeting on March 15, of the National Business and Professional Women of Torrance. Mrs. Colden's son will be "Women and Children of the World."

COUNCIL ORDERS ATTORNEY TO SEEK HEARING ON RATES

Water Rates Same as Ten Years Ago When Company Had Only Half the Consumers, Says Mayor

Torrance city council instructed City Attorney Findley this week to file a complaint with the state railroad commission demanding a reduction in domestic water rates now charged by the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company.

In explaining the council's action, Mayor Dennis said: "It is quite apparent that litigation now pending before the State Supreme Court to test the validity of the bond issue voted two years ago will delay the city's plans for constructing or acquiring its own municipal water system for some time. In the meantime, water consumers are forced to pay high water rates which are particularly burdensome during the summer months."

"The council feels that it should do everything within its power to lessen the cost of living for Torrance residents. We are economizing in every department of the city's government, and this move to secure lower water rates, if successful will not only lessen the burden of the taxpayer but will also materially help those living in rented quarters."

"Present water rates were established in 1922," said the mayor, "when the company had approximately 800 consumers. There are now about 1600 water consumers buying water from the local company, yet the rates are the same as they were ten years ago when there were only half as many customers."

"We understand that public utilities such as the local water company are permitted to earn 8 per cent on their investment. But this investment has been materially reduced through depreciation during the past ten years. With a depreciated investment and twice the consumers, the council feels that it is justified in demanding a hearing from the railroad commission and that a material reduction in domestic water rates will be obtained."

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Work Delayed

"It is a pity that agents of the water company have obstructed the construction of the municipal water system for which bonds were voted two years ago by a vote of 13 to 1. If it had not been for this litigation, Torrance could have taken care of its share of its unemployed through the construction of its new water system," the mayor concluded.

City Attorney Findley stated that he was already working on the complaint and efforts will be made to arrange a hearing with the state railroad commission at the earliest possible date. He stated that the railroad commission's appraisers will go over the equipment of the local water company and place an up-to-date value on the investment.

Three Autos In Crash at Intersection

Traffic Signals Undergoing Repair Said to Be Cause of Accident

A spectacular crash at a street intersection in Los Angeles Saturday in which three cars came together, resulted in serious injuries to Mrs. Annie J. Ganster and painful hurts to her husband, C. J. Ganster, residing at 3138 Redondo-Wilmington boulevard, Lomita.

Stop and go signals undergoing repair were alleged to be the cause of the crash, all three drivers being under the impression that the way was clear. Mrs. Ganster suffered a slight fracture of the skull above the right eye and numerous contusions. Mr. Ganster was painfully bruised about the body and had three ribs broken. The injured were taken to the receiving hospital in Los Angeles for first aid and later the Gansters were brought to Torrance where Mrs. Ganster is being cared for at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital. Her condition is said to be improving.

Elman Welcomed Back To Torrance

Charles Elman, one-time furniture dealer in Torrance, was welcomed back as a new member of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce this week. Mr. Elman is representing Barney Abramsky, a well-known land owner of Los Angeles, who also owns considerable property in Torrance.